

II
SOWERBY BRIDGE

Urban District Council

Annual REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(S. H. BROCK, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.)

and the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

(Wm. E. FOSTER, A.M.I.P.H.E., M.P.H.I.A.)

for the year

1971

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URBAN DISTRICT OF SOWERBY BRIDGE

1971-72

Chairman of the Council:

Councillor A. PETTENGELL, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council:

Councillor MRS. E.M. GODFREY

Members of the Council:

Coun. D. Asquith

" T. Asquith

" G.A. Benbow, J.P.

" C.F. Beverley

" Mrs. M.E. Brewer

" J. Broadbent

" G.P. Dyson

" G. Earnshaw

" Mrs. J.R. Fairhurst

" Mrs. E. Gaskell, J.P.

" L.E. Godfrey

Coun. Mrs. E. Hallowell

" T. Inwood

" G. Kiteon

" T.H. Longbottom

" R. Murphy

" F.W.T. Ogden

" Mrs. D.M. Pettengell

" D.W. Sim

" J. Sutcliffe

" Mrs. W.A. Sutcliffe

" Mrs. D. Wood

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Members of the Health Committee:

Coun. J. Sutcliffe (Chairman)

" Mrs. D.M. Pettengell (Vice-Chairman)

" D. Asquith

" T. Asquith

" C.F. Beverley

" G. Earnshaw

" Mrs. E. Hallowell

" A. Pettengell

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Sowerby Bridge U.D.C.

Medical Officer of Health:

S.H. BROCK, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

Vacant

Chief Public Health Inspector:

W.E. FOSTER, A.M.I.P.H.E., M.P.H.I.A.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

P. NELLIS, M.R.S.H., M.P.H.I.A.

G. HARTLEY, M.R.S.H., M.P.H.I.A.

Technical Assistant:

H. HILEY

Clerical Staff:

Miss B. GARSIDE

Miss D. CRAVEN

West Riding County Council

Preventive Medical Services: Health Division 18 (T)

Staff with duties in the Sowerby Bridge District:-

Divisional Medical Officer:

As above (M.O.H.)

Senior Departmental Medical Officer:

Vacant

Departmental Medical Officer, and Medical Officer to Sowerby Bridge
Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic:

* W.G. McKERR, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.

S. CHARL, M.B., B.S. (Burma) (commenced 2.6.71)

School Dental Officer:

Miss J. ROTHERA, L.D.S.

Divisional Nursing Officer:

* C.J. BARKER, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert., Queen's Nurse

Nursing Officer (Health Visiting):

* S.M. GRAYSON, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert. (commenced 1.9.71)

Nursing Officer (Midwifery):

* S.M. GAULE, R.S.N., S.R.N., S.C.M. (commenced 12.7.71)

Nursing Officer (Home Nursing):

* E. BRIGGS, S.R.N., S.C.M., District Training Cert. (commenced 1.11.71)

Health Visitors:

* M. HOLDSWORTH, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.D.N., H.V. Cert.

M.A. HOLMES, S.R.N., H.V. Cert.

T.M. QUANE, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert. (transferred to Brighouse - 31.12.71)

Assistant Health Visitor:

M.J. HILL (commenced 11.10.71)

Tuberculosis Health Visitor:

* B.G. NICHOLL, S.R.N.

Mental Welfare Officer:

* R. ALLEN, R.N.M.S.

* I.R. SISSLING

(This service transferred to Social Service Department - 1.4.71)

Midwives:

* A.B. HOBSON, S.R.N., S.C.M., Queen's Nurse.

* I. MUSGROVE, S.C.M.

Home Nurses:

A. HOWARTH, S.R.N., S.C.M., Queen's Nurse

* K. BOTTOMLEY, S.R.N., Queen's Nurse

* H. MASH, S.R.N., Queen's Nurse

M. LINGARD, S.R.N.

* S. COX, S.R.N., B.T.A., C.R.F.

* Also have duties in other parts of this Division.

Domestic Help Service:

Organiser:

* M. REDFERN (commenced 1.1.71)

Assistant Organiser:

* E. O'BRIEN (commenced 1.3.71)

(This service transferred to Social Service Department - 1.7.71)

* Also have duties in other parts of this Division.

Clerical Staff:-

Divisional Administrative Officer:

H. MARSHALL, A.C.I.S., A.R.S.H.

Clerks:

Miss M.J. CROWTHER

Mrs. S.M. HALLSWORTH (nee Horsfall)

Miss K. GILL

K.G. HOLLAND

Mrs. L.F. CLARKE, D.M.A.

Mrs. M. CRIDGE

Mrs. M. THACKRAY

Miss C.G. HIRST (resigned 27.8.71)

Miss A.M. LONGBOTTOM

Mrs. B.M. SUTCLIFFE (commenced 1.1.71) (transferred to Social Service Department 1.7.71)

Miss S.E. KETTLEY (commenced 22.9.71)

Halifax Area Hospitals Management Committee

Consultant Staff

Chest Physician:

BERTRAM MANN, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H.

Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon:

P.J. BATCHELOR, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S. (E), D.L.O.

Ophthalmic Surgeon:

S.B. DAVIES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.O.

Orthopaedic Surgeon:

J.K. OYSTON, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S.

The Abraham Ormerod Medical Centre,
Todmorden.

December, 1972.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of the Urban District for 1971, which was my first complete year in the combined post of Medical Officer of Health to the Authority, and Divisional Medical Officer for the West Riding County Health Services. Under the scheme your Medical Officer of Health has similar functions and responsibilities in the other seven districts in the combined division, which includes the County area served by the Halifax hospitals.

1971 was a year of changes - changes effected, changed proposed nationally and locally, involving not only Health Services but Social and Education Services and, indeed, Local Government as a whole. Paramount amongst these in interest during the first half of the year was the launching of the Social Services Department and the gradual transfer of responsibility for Home Helps, Mental Welfare Officers and some other services, from the Health Department to the Social Services Department.

The excitement of this exercise had scarcely begun to abate, when we received the Consultative Document on the re-organisation of the Health Services as a basis for discussion upon which the proposed unification and future management of the health services would take place.

There are two points I would like to bring in here, indicating how changes locally in the work of this Department were introduced to phase in with these major events.

First, whilst clearly intended that the Social Services Department should press ahead as rapidly and effectively as possible through the stages of planning the administration and the assimilation of the work into the new Department, the initial shortage of premises and manpower led to a period of difficulty in providing all the intended services for the community. The vital need for close liaison between Departments dealing with related problems affecting the community became underlined, and initiated the development of co-operative links with the Social Services and other Departments at various levels, aimed at overcoming the difficulties encountered during this time.

Perhaps if transfer of responsibilities to the new Social Services Department had been timed to coincide with the other major changes in the Health Services and Local Government, there would have been more opportunity for preparation. On the other hand, it may be that important lessons are to be learned about the necessity of advance preparation so that, when the time comes, changes in the Health Services may proceed as smoothly as possible.

Initially, of course, these changes will involve particular members of staff and administration rather than patients, but it is my view that the acid-test of the service is its quality and availability as far as the recipient, i.e. patient, is concerned. For this reason we have pursued

locally, and without exception with the encouragement of Family Doctors, the concept of the community health team providing a co-operative system of primary care for the public. Health Visitors had already become identified with particular practices and, during the year, attachment of Home Nurses was completed. Preliminary discussions took place to enable Midwives to work as closely as possible with small groups of a few Family Doctors, to improve liaison in the provision of midwifery care.

I am concerned that, if these primary care teams are well established by 1974 and effective links consolidated with related Department, it will already have contributed much, locally, to future amalgamation of the services and to ensuring that the patients' welfare is not put at risk whilst the new ranks are being closed.

The second point which determined certain changes during the year was the perennial and widespread complaint of shortage of staff. Already short all round in the midwifery, health visiting and nursing establishment, this was a year bedevilled by illness in the staff, several of whom required major surgery and long periods of sick leave. The medical staff position, likewise, was seriously short of manpower, and I would like to record my appreciation to those family doctors who provided their services and help, particularly in the child welfare clinics. Fortunately, the medical staff position improved considerably during the course of the year.

The shortage of Health Visitors was part of the reason for pushing ahead as rapidly as possible with the developmental assessment programme for pre-school children, and the introduction of the pre-school medical examination at the age of 4½ years. Not only were there sound reasons for regarding this system as advantageous in the monitoring of the child's health and development, but it was incorporated in general changes involving infant welfare work and immunisation policy, to allow the Health Visitors scope in using their time as effectively as possible.

Under this scheme, a series of screening tests are carried out by the Health Visitors at intervals during the child's pre-school life and, at less frequent intervals, the doctor conducts other tests and medically examines the child. In addition, routine vision and hearing tests are carried out. By this process, any problem or deviation from the normal is identified and treatment arranged without delay.

On the whole, this scheme has been very well received by parents, and the interest shown by mothers in the home visits and their co-operation in clinic attendance is most gratifying. However, there is one sphere of developmental assessment which so far has not been as successful as we would wish. This is the hearing test carried out during the infant's first year of life where the failure rate to attend for the test is, on average, over 50 per cent. It is essential to bring home to mothers the importance of this test; they have to be made to realise that this test is designed not merely to ascertain the child's ability to hear noise, but to ensure that he can appreciate the full range of vocal sounds. If a child cannot hear a complete speech scale, he may well suffer educationally, emotionally and socially, as well as having difficulty with speech development.

The pre-school examination is a comprehensive review of the child's progress, with a full medical examination at which the child also receives his "booster" immunisation. The advantages here are that any physical, mental or emotional problems likely to affect the child's education are brought to the attention of the teacher before the child enters school, and the method of management discussed and applied from his first day in school. Similarly, he has been given additional protection against the routine infectious diseases before he is exposed to the increased

risk of contact with the larger school population.

The Halifax Hospitals provide hospital services for the Urban District and the other seven districts comprising this County Division, and following the publication of the Consultative Document on the Unification of the Health Services, planning of services will take into account this co-ordinated role. There is at present a considerable degree of co-ordination of hospital, general practitioner and local health authority services in e.g. midwifery, through the regular meetings of the maternity liaison committee, and in the successful development of the Geriatric Day Hospital at Northowram.

Along with the main geriatric hospital, commissioned in September 1970, an effective geriatric service is provided at Northowram for long-stay and day geriatric patients. Further developments at this hospital will include a new psychiatric unit for longer-stay patients. At Halifax General Hospital, among the major developments during 1971 were the new acute psychiatric unit of 60 beds and day hospital, and a very fine new maternity unit with full range of services. The Royal Halifax Infirmary is likewise the subject of close consideration for future extension and improvement of facilities.

The vital statistics indicate a slight decline in the Registrar General's estimated mid-year population, compared with the 1970 figure. The birth rate also shows a slight decrease, although it remains higher than that of the West Riding County and the rest of the country. The number of infant deaths remained very much the same, and there were slightly less illegitimate births, although the decrease of the total number of births has left the illegitimate birth rate virtually unaltered.

The death rate has, once more, remained static with disease of the heart and circulation accounting for the highest proportion of all deaths - 57% of the total - and within this group half the deaths were due to coronary disease. This proportion is very much in line with the figure for the country as a whole. It is well realised that a particularly insidious characteristic of this condition is its habit of striking without obvious warning. All the more important is it, therefore, to act upon the preventive guidance available to reduce the risk of a "coronary". Causation of this disease is certainly complex but it is well recognised that smoking, overweight, dietary habits and blood pressure are amongst the important contributory factors, and there is much that can be done in taking the initiative to reduce this risk by sheer commonsense by reducing smoking and overweight when appropriate. By taking a reasonable amount of physical exercise, improvement in the blood supply to the heart itself is encouraged, so that if one of the coronary blood vessels does become blocked there is more likelihood of a satisfactory alternative blood supply being available, thus reducing the risk of fatal outcome.

On the question of infectious diseases, there was a sharp reduction during 1971 in the number of measles cases notified, but the continuance of this satisfactory state of affairs depends on mothers ensuring that their children are vaccinated against this condition. Already it is very clear that the low figure for measles notification in 1971 was, unfortunately, temporary, with every indication of there being a steep rise in the figure for 1972.

There was a change in the routine immunisation procedures by the withdrawal of routine vaccination of infants against smallpox. This national policy followed the recommendations made to the Department of Health by the advisory committee on vaccination and immunisation, and was based on progress made on the international front by the World Health Organisation eradication programme and the view that, in this country, the risks of continuing routine vaccination of

Infants outweighs the advantages as a preventive measure. People travelling to areas where smallpox is still a threat, and those at special risk, e.g. ambulance staff, continue to be vaccinated as a routine.

The prevention and early detection of disease continues to be an important aspect of the work of the Department. An example of this role, of course, is the cervical cytology screening clinic and, during the early part of the year the staff took part in a pilot scheme, organised by the Office of Population Censuses and Statistics, aimed at devising a routine national scheme to recall women for cervical cytology at an interval of five years after the initial screening. Prior to this, arrangements for recall varied considerably from one part of the country to another.

I would again like to mention the continuing good work carried out by those people concerned with the health and well-being of the elderly. The Meals-on-Wheels and Luncheon Club activities continued to flourish, whilst the various warden schemes at the end of the year numbered five, covering the group dwellings on Council estates, and four of the visiting warden type, covering wider areas. The chiropody scheme arranged for 507 patients to receive 2,417 treatments in the clinics, and a further 225 who were unable to attend received 1,100 treatments at home.

The environmental work of the Department including Housing, Pollution and Water Supply, is given in detail by the Chief Public Health Inspector in his report. In the supervision of milk supplies, on one occasion it was necessary to serve a heat treatment notice on a producer in respect of the sale of milk from a herd containing animals infected with brucellosis. The problem was quickly resolved, and the notice withdrawn almost immediately.

I would like to record my appreciation of the co-operation received at all times from the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. Foster, and his staff, and I would also like to thank Members of the Council and the Chief Officers for their kindness and co-operation during the year.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

S.H. BROCK, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION I

Vital Statistics

STATISTICS

Area	5,763
Population, Registrar-General's estimate of	
Resident Population, mid-1971	16,230
Population (Census, 1971)	16,260
Number of dwellinghouses	6,464
Rateable Value (1.4.71)	£ 401,632
Estimated Product of a 1p Rate (year 1971-72)	£ 3,684

Summary of Vital Statistics

	Total	M	F	
Live Births	274	147	127	Birth Rate per 1,000 population: 16.9
Still Births	3	2	1	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births: 11
Total Live & Still Births	277	149	128	
Deaths of Infants				Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births:
Under 1 year (total)	6	3	3	total 22
Under 1 year (legitimate)	3	2	1	legitimate 13
Under 1 year (illegitimate)				illegitimate (per 1,000 illegitimate live births) 81
Under 4 weeks	5	3	2	Neo-natal mortality rate 16
Under 1 week	4	3	1	Early neo-natal mortality rate 15
Illegitimate Live Births	37	22	15	Percentage of total live births: 14
Maternal Deaths (associated with pregnancy or child-birth)	-	-	-	Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births: Nil
All Deaths	237	112	125	Death Rate per 1,000 population: 14.6

CAUSES OF DEATH IN SOVERBY BRIDGE U.D.

1971

										M	F
B 19	(2)	Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	-
B 19	(3)	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1
B 19	(4)	Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	5
B 19	(6)	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung Bronchus	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	1
B 19	(7)	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	5
B 19	(8)	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	5
B 19	(9)	Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	-
B 19	(10)	Leukaemia .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
B 19	(11)	Other Malignant Neoplasms	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	6
B 21		Diabetes Mellitus .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	1
B 46	(5)	Other diseases of Nervous System	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	2
B 26		Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1
B 27		Hypertensive Disease .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1
B 28		Ischaemic Heart Disease .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	34	30
B 29		Other forms of Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	5
B 30		Cerebrovascular Disease .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	21
B 46	(6)	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	10
B 32		Pneumonia .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	12
B 33	(1)	Bronchitis and Emphysema .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	3
B 33	(2)	Asthma .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	2
B 46	(7)	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	1
B 34		Peptic Ulcer .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	1
B 36		Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	3
B 46	(8)	Other Diseases of Digestive System	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	-
B 42		Congenital Anomalies .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	4
B 43		Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	-
B 45		Symptoms and Ill-defined Conditions	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
BE 47		Motor Vehicle Accidents .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	-
BE 48		All other Accidents .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
BE 49		Suicide and Self-inflicted Injuries	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1
BE 50		All other External Causes .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1

112 125

Principal Vital Statistics for the year 1971

Based on Registrar General's Figures

	Sowerby Bridge U.D.	Rippon- den U.D.	Hebden Royd U.D.	Hepton R.D.	Todmor- den M.B.	Aggregate W. Riding U.D.	W. Riding Admin. County	England and Wales (Provisional Figures)
BIRTH RATE:- (per 1,000 estimated population)	18.1	16.1	17.5	10.5	15.2	17.2	17.2	16.0
DEATH RATES:- (All per 1,000 estimated home population)								
All Causes	14.6	13.6	19.6	13.9	14.3	12.5	12.3	11.6
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	-	-	-	-	0.07	0.02	0.02	0.02
Other forms of tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	0.01	0.01	0.01
Cancer	2.77	2.24	2.41	3.27	2.79	2.25	2.16	2.39
Vascular lesions of nervous system	2.16	1.84	2.18	2.38	2.73	1.86	1.75	+
Heart and circulatory diseases **	6.04	7.34	6.87	7.74	5.78	4.62	4.41	+
Respiratory Diseases:- ** (excluding tuberculosis of respiratory system)	1.91	1.22	1.26	1.19	1.85	1.53	1.42	+
INFANT MORTALITY:- (Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births)	21.9	-	32.0	31.3	15.8	18.7	18.4	17.5
MATERNAL MORTALITY:- (Deaths of mothers associated with pregnancy or childbirth, per 1,000 live and still births)	-	-	-	-	-	0.09	0.10	0.17

* Combined death rate from mental diseases and other diseases of the circulatory system.

** Combined death rate from influenza, pneumonia, bronchitis and other respiratory diseases, including tuberculosis of the respiratory system.

+ + Figures not available.

SECTION II

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

(A) Hospitals

There is no hospital in Sowerby Bridge. Patients requiring hospital treatment are referred as a rule to hospitals under the administration of the Halifax Area Hospitals Management Committee (National Health Service). Included in this group are the Halifax General Hospital, Royal Halifax Infirmary, Northowram Hospital (for the aged and chronic sick), Todmorden Fielden Hospital and Todmorden Stansfield View Hospital (for mentally subnormal patients).

Maternity beds are available at the Halifax General Hospital. Priority in booking is given to abnormal cases, mothers expecting their first child, and mothers with unsatisfactory home conditions.

Special hospitals (e.g. Mental Hospitals, special Orthopaedic Hospitals, Tuberculosis Sanatoria, etc.) outside the Halifax area are available when required; they are situated in various parts of the so-called "Leeds Hospitals Region" which in fact extends into all three Ridings.

(B) Ambulance Service

The County Ambulance Service covers this district through the Group Control at Birkenshaw and the Divisional Depot at Brighouse, and may be contacted by telephone - Bradford 682211, or Halifax 62191. Arrangements also exist with the Halifax County Borough Health Department for the use of their ambulances for the transfer of patients to and from the hospitals in Halifax.

(C) Laboratory Facilities

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Services, at laboratories in Wakefield and Bradford, and by the Regional Blood Transfusion Service at Leeds. There are also facilities for the examination of clinical specimens, including cervical smears, at the Royal Halifax Infirmary.

(D) Issue of Anti-Toxin, etc.

Supplies of diphtheria and tetanus anti-toxin are available at the Royal Halifax Infirmary for issue to medical practitioners requiring them. A supply of re-agents for diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, poliomyelitis, measles and rubella, is available free of charge to private practitioners who have undertaken to participate in the West Riding County Council's schemes of immunisation.

SECTION III

W.R.C.C. PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

(A) Clinics and Treatment Centres

Infant Welfare:

Allan House, Sowerby Bridge	Tuesdays	}	2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
	Thursdays		
The Civic Centre, Luddenden Foot	Fridays		

Cervical Cytology:

Allan House, Sowerby Bridge	By appointment
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Chiropody (for Pensioners, etc.):

Allan House, Sowerby Bridge	}	By appointment
The Civic Centre, Luddenden Foot		

Dental Clinic:

Allan House, Sowerby Bridge	By appointment
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School Clinics:

Allan House, Sowerby Bridge	}	As required
(a) Ophthalmic		
(b) Ear, Nose and Throat		

Smallpox Vaccination:

Diphtheria Immunisation:

Tetanus Immunisation:

Whooping Cough Immunisation:

Poliomyelitis Vaccination:

Measles Vaccination:

Allan House, Sowerby Bridge
The Civic Centre, Luddenden Foot
At Clinic Sessions by arrangement with Medical Officer.

(B) Care of Mothers and Young Children

Child Welfare Clinics:

From the beginning of the year a system of regular screening tests to assess development of all pre-school children was introduced as part of the Child Health Service, carried out by the Health Visitors and Doctors.

Total number of children who attended during the year	..	..	..	..	673
Total number of attendances	..	..	..	..	4,614

Home Visiting of Infants:

Total number of live births to Sowerby Bridge mothers	..	..	..	..	274
Number of first visits to children under 1 year	..	..	..	..	239
Total number of first visits to children aged 1-2 years	..	..	..	..	133
Total number of first visits to children aged 2-3 years	..	..	..	..	188

Provision of Welfare Foods, etc.:

A variety of brands of dried milk and other infant foods were also sold at the Child Welfare Centre for the convenience of mothers. National dried milk, cod liver oil, orange juice, etc., have been distributed at the Centres for many years. During the year, however, the Welfare Food Order, 1971 came into operation, the effect of which was to withdraw cheap welfare milk from all expectant and nursing mothers and children under school age, but to extend entitlement to free Welfare milk for those at nutritional risk for financial or other reason.

The Welfare Foods Scheme also provides vitamins for expectant and nursing mothers and young children. Under the same Order, cod liver oil (Vit. A & D) was withdrawn in April 1971, and orange juice (Vit. C) at the end of December 1971. The reasons for this measure were firstly, the unpalatable taste of cod liver oil for many children, and secondly the belief that misuse of concentrated fruit syrups (such as Welfare orange juice) contributed to dental caries. These products have been replaced by Vit. A, D, & C. drops for children, and Vit. A, D, & C. tablets for expectant and nursing mothers. The tablets contain, in addition, certain other essential nutritional requirements for the expectant and nursing mother.

These vitamin preparations are free to expectant and nursing mothers and children under school age in low income families, in addition to free Welfare milk. Included in these are families in receipt of Supplementary Benefit or Family Income Supplement, and any in special need because of low income. For families not entitled to free provision the cost of these preparations is very modest - about 5p for a six weeks supply.

Care of Premature Infants:

Special equipment and nursing staff is available for use in the home in cases requiring them. Portable incubators are available at both the Halifax and Brighouse Ambulance Stations, should it be necessary to transfer a premature infant to hospital.

Provision of Maternity Outfits:

These are provided free to mothers preparing for confinement in their own homes.

(C) Professional Nursing in the Home

The County Council are responsible for the home nursing and midwifery services in Sowerby Bridge. There were 5 full-time Home Nurses and 2 full-time Midwives employed in 1971. 3 of the Home Nurses and both Midwives, however, did not work wholly in the Sowerby Bridge area, also having duties in other parts of the Divisional area. A Midwifery Nursing Officer (Miss Gaule) and a Home Nursing Officer (Mrs. Briggs) were appointed during the year.

Midwifery Services:

Number of home confinements	.. .. .	48
Number of hospital confinements	.. .. .	222

The Sowerby Bridge midwives are trained in the administration of both tri-lene and gas and air analgesia, and are provided with the necessary equipment. Analgesia is available to all mothers desiring it, subject to satisfactory medical examination by a doctor.

Relaxation classes were held regularly during the year.

(D) Health Visiting

The duties of the Health Visitor are combined with those of School Nurse. In pursuance of the National Health Service Act the scope of this service includes home visiting for the purpose of giving advice as to the care of children, of persons (including adults) suffering from illness, and of expectant and nursing mothers. The Health Visitor also gives advice in the home as to measures necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

Throughout this Health Division, as far as possible, Health Visitors are attached to the practices of family doctors and serve the families on their medical lists, rather than working in fixed districts. This attachment scheme has led to closer integration of the two services, and this is very much appreciated.

Family Planning

Since April 1971, the Family Planning Association have held weekly sessions in Allan House Clinic, Sowerby Bridge, taking cases from the Ripponden area as well as the immediate locality.

Cervical Cytology

This examination for early detection of cancer of the cervix is offered on a regular basis at Allan House Clinic at Sowerby Bridge, and is also provided by the family doctors.

(E) Home Helps

Under the Local Authority Social Services Act, 1970, responsibility for the Home Help Service came under the Social Services Department, and transfer was effected during 1971.

(F) Care and After Care

Special provisions are in operation for the care and after care of patients suffering from tuberculosis, mental illness or subnormality, venereal disease, and other illness.

Tuberculosis

A full-time tuberculosis health visitor is employed in the Division. She attends the chest clinic at the Halifax Royal Infirmary, and has helped to forge a valuable link with the hospital services. She is also responsible for visiting patients at home and helps to trace and supervise their contacts. In 1971, visits were paid to 77 households in the Division.

Mental Health Service

Under the Local Authority Social Services Act, 1970, arrangements for the provision of Social Services (including advice and support) for the purpose of the prevention of mental disorder, the care of persons suffering from mental disorder and the after care of such persons, became the responsibility of the Social Services Department. Transfer of the Mental Welfare Officers and responsibility for Adult Training Centres took place during the year.

Under the Education (Handicapped Children) Act, 1970, provision was made to bring within the educational system those children who became, or would previously have been deemed as being unsuitable for education at school, and responsibility for providing training for such children passed from the Health Department to the Education Department during the year under review. By these arrangements, the former Junior Training Centres became designated as Special Schools.

(G) School Health Service

Number of schools in district	17
Number of children in attendance at school at end of 1971	3,012
Number of children examined at school during 1971	1,044
this figure being made up as follows:-	
Routine examination	330
Re-examination	664
Number of children referred for treatment	79

(H) Immunisation and Vaccination

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, immunisation and vaccination of school children and pre-school children may be done either at the clinic or by the family doctor. Under the County Health Department's computer programme, immunisations are offered during the pre-school period to protect against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, polio and measles. Routine vaccination of infants against smallpox was withdrawn in August 1971, following the recommendation made to the Department of Health by the Advisory Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation, and was based on progress made on the international front by the World Health Organisation Smallpox Eradication Programme and the view that, in this country, the risks of continuing the routine vaccination of infants outweigh the advantages as a precautionary measure.

In addition to booster immunisations given later in childhood, vaccination against tuberculosis is offered to those who require it at the age of 12 to 13 years, and vaccination against German Measles to girls in the same age group who have no natural immunity.

SECTION IV

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Summary of Notifications received in year 1971

Disease											Total cases notified
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Whooping Cough .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Acute Poliomyelitis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Measles .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Diphtheria .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Dysentery .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Meningococcal Infection .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Acute Pneumonia .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Smallpox .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Acute Encephalitis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Enteric or Typhoid Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Paratyphoid Fevers .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Erysipelas .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Food Poisoning .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Puerperal Pyrexia .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Ophthalmic Neonatorum .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Infective Jaundice .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Other forms of Tuberculosis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

16

Tuberculosis

The following table gives at a glance the position regarding tuberculosis
in Sowerby Bridge in 1971

	Respiratory			Non-Respiratory			Totals
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
Number on Register on 1st January 1971	30	7	37	-	1	1	38
Number first notified during 1971	1	2	3	-	1	1	4
Number of cases restored to Register	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of cases added to Register other than by notification	1	-	1	-	-	-	1
Number removed from Register during 1971:-							
(a) Died	1	1	2	-	-	-	2
(b) Removed from district	1	-	1	-	-	-	1
(c) Recovered	1	3	4	-	-	-	4
Number remaining on Register, 31.12.71	29	5	34	-	2	2	36

REPORT

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

For the year ending 31st December 1971

To the Chairman and Members of the Sowerby Bridge Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on (a) the sanitary conditions of the area, (b) the housing conditions including overcrowding, (c) the inspection and supervision of food, for the year ending 31st December 1971, and for the cleansing services for the financial year ending 31st March 1972.

The life of the smaller Authority has now, to a very large extent, been determined. This does not mean that progress will in any way be restricted or halted; rather the reverse. Programmes already planned, and to be completed after 1974 will, if at all possible, be brought forward and completed, or at least be so committed that the fulfilment of the programmes will not be long delayed after the amalgamation.

As in previous years, housing continues to be one of the more important duties of the Department, but the emphasis is changing from clearance to improvement. This is due in the main to the fact that over the past 14 years or so an average of 100 houses or more per year have been dealt with, and consequently the vast majority of unfit dwellings have been cleared; leaving only a small number of unfit properties, and a considerable number of borderline properties.

These latter properties would for the most part have fallen into the clearance categories but for the improvement grants which have been available, and this has put a completely different complexion on the position. Properties in which owners showed little or no interest a few years ago, due to low rents and high maintenance costs, are now being improved either by the owners or, in the majority of cases, are being bought and improved by the owner-occupier; so making a major contribution towards the housing stock.

With the passing of the 1969 Housing Act, the procedure for making Improvement Areas has been much simplified, and at the year end one General Improvement Area had been declared (Mill Bank), and two in the East Ward were proposed. In declaring the Mill Bank area it was unfortunate that the decision was made on an interim report and not on a detailed report, upon which the public could participate and pass comments; thus leaving a number of uncertainties and with little or no consideration for environmental improvement. In order to remedy this, the Council towards the year end engaged the services of the architects and surveyors who had prepared the interim report, to carry out a detailed survey of all the properties, preparing plans and costs, with suggested rents where applicable. This work was well in hand at the end of the year.

The clearance programme up to the end of 1973 is continuing, but the number of houses included is being reduced in the light of increasing proposals submitted by the owners for house improvements.

With the high number of Type 2 back-to-back houses, which are the side scullery type, still remaining, one may consider that the housing standards in the district are rather low. The majority of these houses, however, are substantially built and without doubt will provide adequate housing accommodation for many years to come. I am still of the opinion that if a General Improvement Area had been declared in North Ward instead of deferring the decision after so much work had been completed, and where so many of the Type 2 houses are to be seen, a most useful contribution to the improvement of this type of house would be nearing completion. Fortunately, the visits to the property have not been in vain, as many owners have undertaken the improvements without further prompting from the Council, but unfortunately the housing improvement is taking place without any environmental improvement, which should be a feature of every improvement area.

The record of this Authority for house improvement is very good. At the present time more than 22% of the privately owned houses have been improved by the aid of grants.

The private water supplies have again had a fair share of attention, and there are now only a small percentage of the houses on private water supplies. During the year the major extension to the Blackwood Hall area was completed, together with the Saw Hill supply, and we look forward to the individual extensions being completed at an early date. Only one major extension remains, this being the Higham and Dob supply at Sowerby, and it is hoped that this, together with a few minor extensions, will be completed before the end of 1973.

One major problem now emerging in water supplies is not arising in the private sector, but with the public supply, and this is the inadequacy due to small bore joint service pipes serving groups of houses. In rows of terrace houses built 60 to 100 years ago, the only sanitary fitment, in addition to the usual outside toilet, was a sink with a cold water tap. The joint service pipe at that time was apparently reasonably adequate, but now with bathroom installations and the introduction of automatic washers, etc., the supply has become totally inadequate; so much so that there is difficulty in filling either the hot water or the W.C. cisterns. It is therefore imperative that each house has a separate communication pipe. In many cases, however, this is virtually impossible, due to the lack of a suitable water main in the associated road or street.

One may say that such a main should be provided by the Water Board, and whilst the Board have powers to provide such a main they are reluctant to undertake such extensions without a guarantee that at least 50% of the properties to be covered apply and pay for a separate connection. One would expect an eagerness in this day and age for modern amenities and adequate water supplies, but unfortunately a number of main extensions are held up due to lack of interest, and cost. This may be due to the difficulty in getting grant aid for water supplies, for whilst a grant is available for this service, providing a discretionary grant is obtained, no grant at present is available where standard grants are involved, or where the owners require an improved supply without resorting to an improvement grant. This is a matter which should require consideration both by the Local Authority, Water Board and the Department of the Environment.

There has been considerable activity by the Local Authorities in the Halifax and Calder Valley areas in the study of refuse disposal, with a view to incineration of refuse in the entire area. This has been brought to a head firstly due to the concern by a number of Authorities, one of which was Sowerby Bridge, at the amount of remaining space for controlled tipping, and the lack of future sites. Also the fact that refuse disposal including the disposal of industrial waste in the area

could not, due to costs, etc., be tackled by any Individual Authority.

Accordingly, joint action has been adopted, and during 1971 substantial progress has been made. So far, a firm of consultants have been engaged and a feasibility study completed, the findings being accepted in principle by the Local Authorities concerned. One now looks forward to the completion of the work study and the siting of the incinerator. There is no doubt that the completion of this project will take several years, and it is therefore of the utmost importance that agreement be reached and works commenced at a very early date.

Regarding this Authority's position, approximately 2 years' tipping space remains on the central area at Milner Royd, and although there may be additional space immediately beyond this area, and also at Daisy Bank, it is suggested that this should only be used in an emergency.

Already, approximately 4 acres of the tip have been seeded and fenced, and the other areas are rapidly filling up. Bays approximately 8ft. to 10ft. deep have been cut in the hillside, not only to provide an enlarged tipping space, but also to provide an enlarged area for recreational purposes, and also the subsoil will provide blinding (not covering) material for the tip. It may seem strange, but I am very anxious to see the central area of approximately 10 acres completed and, if possible, seeded prior to March 1974. The new tractor will enable much of the heavy work to be completed, irrespective of weather conditions, both on roads and bankings in addition to tip control, and I look forward to seeing this area of reclaimed land contributing in no small way to the pleasures and sport of the youth of the district.

Last, but by no means least, I feel that I must refer to the efforts of the Department in relation to Smoke Control. It was anticipated that the programme would be completed by 1975, but efforts are now being made to bring this completion date to the end of 1973. During the year Area No. 10 has been declared, and Area No. 9, that is the entire Norland area, has become operative. There still remains part of Luddendenfoot and Midgley to be declared, but it is anticipated that the survey of these areas will be completed before the end of 1972, and if this can be achieved then the whole area should be completed prior to the amalgamation of districts.

Other duties undertaken by the Department are covered in the report under their separate headings.

The Department has been fortunate to retain its staff over the year, and it is a fact that continuity of staff is very important, and that the successful working of any Health Department depends not only on the expertise and good teamwork, but also on the wide knowledge of local conditions, and I am indeed fortunate to have members of staff who have such qualities.

May I, in conclusion, thank the Chairman, Councillor J. Sutcliffe, and the Members of the Public Health Committee, for their support and assistance; also the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Brock, for his help and support in the many complex problems which have arisen from time to time.

My thanks are also due to the Public Health Inspectors, Mr. P. Nellis and Mr. G. Hartley; and to the Technical Officer, Mr. H. Hiley, who has dealt with the problems under the Clean Air Act; also to the Clerical Staff, Miss B. Garside and Miss D. Craven, who have been responsible for the setting out of the reports and the general clerical work of the Department. May I also record my thanks to the Foreman, Mr. F. Croad, and the Employees of the Cleansing

Department, who have carried out the objectionable work of collection and disposal of refuse in such a satisfactory manner.

My thanks are also due to the Officials of the Council, and the Calderdale Water Board, who have so kindly co-operated in supplying general information for this report.

I remain, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours respectfully,

W.E. FOSTER. A.M.I.P.H.E., M.P.H.I.A.

(Signed) W.E. Foster.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLIES

Public Supply

The public water supply for the majority of the urban district is supplied by the Calderdale Water Board, and by arrangement with the Board, parts of the Ryburn Valley are supplied by the Wakefield and District Water Board.

The approximate number of houses connected to the public supplies at the end of the year is 6,164, being 95.3% of the total number of houses in the urban district. These are supplied as follows:-

Calderdale Water Board - Halifax Reservoirs	5,931
Wakefield and District - Ripponden Reservoirs	233

During the year, the mains extension at Blackwood Hall, which was commenced in 1970, was completed by the Calderdale Water Board. This extension comprises 914 yds. of 4" AC main, to serve 49 houses previously served by private water supplies. At the year end, all but 2 of the houses concerned were connected to this new supply, and steps were being taken in respect of the outstanding properties.

The extension of the Saw Hill and Ivy Houses rural scheme was also completed during the year, with the 47 yds. extension of main to Dearplay. The completion of this scheme means that all 33 properties in the scheme, previously connected to private water supplies, now have the public supply available.

Throughout the year, work has continued on connecting houses at Towngate, Midgley, to the 450 yds. length of 4" AC main extended in this area last year. At the year end, some properties still require to be connected to this new main.

The public supplies have been highly satisfactory in all respects, and are occasionally sampled, should this be considered necessary.

However, as in previous years, it has been found that certain blocks of houses are experiencing a shortage of supply due to old joint service pipes which are now quite inadequate to meet the increased demand for water resulting from installation of bathrooms and hot water systems, etc. Each house should, of course, be supplied direct from the mains, but in certain instances suitably located mains do not exist. In such an instance, the Calderdale Water Board will usually agree to provide a main free of charge, on the proviso that 50% of the owners of the houses concerned agree beforehand to connect to this new main. The cost of the new connection is the direct responsibility of the owner of the house, who is often reluctant to have the work done. Due to this, the implementation of such a scheme is often prolonged and difficult and may, in fact, not reach fruition. It has been found necessary in certain cases to make the new service pipe a condition of standard and improvement grants, and I strongly feel that consideration should be given to the present legislation being amended to allow this work to be eligible for standard grant aid.

Private Supplies

Apart from a few small extensions such as at New Bell View Terrace and similar small rural blocks, only one major extension remains, and this is the extension serving Steep Lane, Higham and Dob, and the upper part of Shield Hall. It is hoped to include all these in 1972, in order to have them well under way before the end of March 1973. Apart from the properties situated on the more remote parts of the hillside, the entire area should then be covered by the public supply.

The table below sets out the number of houses still dependant upon private water supplies, and also the decrease in these numbers over the years, which has been largely due to the efforts of the Council in extending the public supply. Approximately 300 houses still remain on private supplies. These are mostly serving isolated farmhouses and very small blocks of property, and it will be impossible, due to contours, to cover the entire area with the public supply, but efforts are being made to improve the private supplies in order that these will be satisfactory.

Year	No. of Houses on a Private Supply	Percentage of total
1961	1,246	19.5 %
1962	1,230	19 %
1963	1,164	17 %
1964	1,023	14.9 %
1965	869	12.8 %
1966	758	11.2 %
1967	691	9.2 %
1968	596	8.8 %
1969	529	7.7 %
1970	485	7.4 %
1971	300	4.7 %

The above private supplies are checked regularly and surveyed as and when necessary.

During 1971, 48 samples of water have been obtained for bacteriological examination, of which 20 were unsatisfactory. A number of these have recently been replaced by the public water supply. Details of the samples are set out below:-

District	Bacteriological Examination		
	Sat.	U/Sat.	Total.
Luddenden Foot	13	7	20
Midgley and Luddenden	1	3	4
Triangle and Mill Bank	1	5	6
Sowerby	10	5	15
Norland	3	-	3
Totals ..	28	20	48

In addition to these samples, 2 were obtained for chemical analysis, 1 of which was found to be unsatisfactory, the water being aggressive to metals.

Where supplies are found to attack fittings on hot water circuits, every effort is made to persuade the owners to replace the metal concerned with one which is not subject to attack. Upon enquiry, no evidence of ill-effects has been observed amongst the users of these supplies.

Drainage and Sewerage

The sewers of the district serve approximately 6,101 houses, but there are approximately 363 that rely on cesspools, septic tank drainage and the like. The majority of these have a satisfactory means of disposal, but unfortunately some still rely on unsatisfactory drainage to fields, although such instances are fast disappearing.

During the year the work on the new surface water sewer at Wincey Lane, Sowerby, was completed, and this should avoid flooding in these rural surroundings.

The unsewered areas in the district are likely to remain so, but where improvements are taking place, septic tank drainage is being provided, and if this method is properly maintained it appears to be quite satisfactory and accepted by the Rivers Board.

Routine maintenance has continued during the year, with the cleansing, flueing and repair of drains and sewers as and where necessary.

During the year, 144 visits in connection with defective drainage, together with 137 re-visits for testing, have been undertaken. In addition to this work, 40 choked drains have been attended to under the provisions of the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1931. No charge has been made for this work.

Sewage Disposal

The sewage disposal works at Milner Royd have received attention, the plant being overhauled, and at High Royd, Luddenden Foot, a further extension scheme is in preparation. The effluent from these works appears to satisfy the Rivers Board.

Sanitary Accommodation

The Council, over the years, has made efforts to improve the sanitary conditions in the out-lying districts by the extension of water supply and the provision of adequate sewers, or alternatively the provision of septic tank drainage. This has resulted in the very primitive type of sanitary accommodation, namely pails, gradually disappearing. It is hoped, before the end of 1973, to see the complete disappearance of this type of accommodation, as already steps are being taken to discontinue this collection.

With the grant of £50 being available, together with the full housing improvement grant, there is no excuse for these pails remaining. In addition, the Council's vehicle which was used for the

collection of pails is no longer available, and this will not be replaced. It is work which is so objectionable that the employees of the Cleansing Department should not be called upon to do. It is sincerely hoped that the Council will not be required to act formally in this matter.

The domestic sanitary accommodation within the district is set out as follows:-

Number of Pedestal W.C.s	5,934
Number of Pail Closets	32
Number of Trough or Waste Water Closets	17
Number of Chemical Closets	13
	<hr/>
	5,996
	<hr/>

The distribution of pails in the out-districts is indicated in the following table:-

District	Pails
Luddenden Foot	2
Midgley and Luddenden	7
Triangle	5
Sowerby	13
Norland	5
	<hr/>
Totals ..	32

From these figures it will be seen that although there is still a certain amount of joint sanitary accommodation within the district, this is decreasing quite rapidly, mainly with the progress of slum clearance, and the continuing trend of dwelling improvement.

Factories Act, 1961

Details of the factories on the register, together with the defects found, are set out in the following tables:-

Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health

Factories	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	Written Notices
In which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authority	1	-	-
Where Section 7 is enforced	79	52	2
	<hr/>		
Totals ..	80	52	2

Number with inadequate sanitary conveniences	2
Number in need of cleaning	5
Number requiring general modernisation	-
Other contraventions relative to ventilation, lighting, etc.	6
Number satisfactory	42
Number dealt with verbally, and improved	9
Informal action	2

The following table sets out the factories on the register operating in the district at the end of the year:-

Bakehouses	2
Brass Finishing	1
Brass Foundry	1
Carpet Manufacturers	6
Cloth Carbonising	2
Diecasting	1
Drycleaners	1
Dyers	1
Dyeworks	2
Electrical Generating and Transforming	1
Engineering (light)	6
Gas Holder	1
Joiners and Cabinet Makers	5
Launderers	1
Leather Goods	1
Light Steel Machinery	1
Machine Tools	1
Mortar Grinding	1
Motor Vehicle Repairs	3
Paper Baling and Sorting	1
Pattern Making	1
Plastic Mouldings and Compounds	2
Portable Buildings	1
Pre-packed Foods	1
Printers	1
Radio and Television Repairs	1
Sheet Metal Working	2
Shops classified as factories	1
Sugar Confectioners	3
Textiles - Cotton	3
Textiles - Woollen and Worsted	13
Textile Machinery	1
Upholstery	1
Waggon Sheet Repair	1
Warehouses	2
Wholesale Clothing	3
Wire Manufacturers	1
Wool Sorting (including waste, etc.)	5
Wool Blanding	2

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

Inspections under the Act have been carried out during the past year, and during which no major difficulties have arisen in enforcing the Act. Most of the contraventions have been of a comparatively minor nature, which were readily remedied after the occupier had been notified.

Whether the absence of any reports of accidents to persons working in premises covered by the Act is due to the reasonably high standard that is maintained in such premises, is a matter for conjecture, but must surely have played some large part in securing the safety, health and welfare of employees, as the Act so obviously intends. On the other hand, it is possible that accidents have not been reported, either because the occupier has not been aware of his obligations to report accidents under Section 48 of the Act, or because accidents have not been purposely reported. However, no evidence of such cases has been seen or come to light.

As can be seen from the table below, the number of new registrations totalled 6, whilst the number of premises coming within the scope of the Act dropped from last year's figure of 81 to 74. The number of persons employed showed a corresponding fall, from 337 to 275. These figures show the continuing trend of the decrease in the number of premises registered and the number of persons employed under the Act, and it is interesting to note that the corresponding figures for 1967, 3 years after the Act's inspection, were 126 premises registered, and 474 persons employed in such premises.

Registrations and General Inspections

Class of Premises	No. of premises registered during the year	Total No. of registered premises at end of year	No. of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	1	19	7
Retail Shops	4	43	25
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses ..	-	3	1
Catering Establishments open to the public, Canteens	1	9	3
Fuel Storage Depots	-	-	-
Totals	6	74	36

Total number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to Registered

Premises under the Act 88

Analysis of Contraventions

Section	Number of Contraventions found	Section	Number of Contraventions found
4	Cleanliness 3	16	Floors, passage and stairs 9
5	Overcrowding Nil	17	Fencing exposed parts
6	Temperature 8		machinery 2
7	Ventilation Nil	18	Protection of young
8	Lighting 2		persons from dangerous
9	Sanitary Conveniences 13		machinery Nil
10	Washing Facilities 9	19	Training of young persons
11	Supply of Drinking Water .. 1		working at dangerous
12	Clothing Accommodation Nil		machinery Nil
13	Sitting Facilities Nil	23	Prohibition of heavy work Nil
14	Seats (Sedentary Workers) .. Nil	24	First Aid General Provisions 5
15	Eating Facilities Nil		Other Matters 13
			Total 65

Analysis of Persons employed in Registered Premises

Class of Workplace	Number of Persons Employed
Offices	67
Retail Shops	122
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	21
Restaurants and Canteens	65
Fuel Storage Depots	-
Total ..	275
Total Males	107
Total Females	168

Exemptions: There have been no applications received for any exemptions during the year.

Prosecutions: There have been no prosecutions instituted this year, the work having been carried out informally.

Accidents: No accidents have been reported during the year.

Public Swimming Bath

The swimming bath is used quite extensively by children and schools as well as the general public, not only from this district but also those of adjoining areas. The capacity of the bath is approximately 64,000 gallons, and the turnover of bath water with the existing equipment takes place every 4 hours. The filtering and chlorinating equipment appears to give every satisfaction, as indicated by the water sample results.

During the year, 4 samples of water have been taken from the swimming bath at the inlet and outlet, 2 for chemical and 2 for bacteriological examination. The reports received from the Public Analyst showed that all these samples of bath waters were excellent.

Nuisances (Part 3, Public Health Act, 1936, except Smoke Nuisances)

The number of inspections for nuisances only, excluding housing inspections, was 197, and in addition 97 re-visits were made.

At the end of 1970 there were 6 informal notices and 1 statutory notice outstanding. During 1971, 57 informal notices were served and of these, together with the 6 informal notices and 1 statutory notice outstanding at the end of 1970, 57 were abated, leaving 7 informal notices outstanding at the end of the year.

The statutory notice remedied during the year had been served in respect of a nuisance arising from the filthy condition of a house within the district. Informal approaches had been made many times in 1969, with little result, and there was no other alternative but to take formal action in 1970. Before the end of last year a successful application had to be made to the Court for the issue of a nuisance order, as the abatement notice had not been complied with within the time given. During this year, the nuisance was abated and the nuisance order complied with. The number of visits and time spent on dealing with this nuisance over a period of 2 years had been quite considerable, and entirely due to the unco-operative nature of the family concerned.

Apart from such cases as this, where legal action has to be resorted to and which are fortunately, few in number, almost all of the work relating to nuisances is carried out informally. An interview with the persons concerned is usually sufficient to secure the abatement of the notice, and therefore the above figures do not accurately reflect the time spent and the amount of work done in this respect.

Offensive Trades

There are no offensive trades as such carried out in the district, apart from the fact that Fish Friers were included many years ago under this category. At the present time there are 18 Fish Friers, 27 visits being made to these establishments.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

	Visits														
Camping Sites	10
Conversions	48
Re-visits	30
Disinfestation	42
Drainage, etc.	144
Re-visits	137
Factories	32
Fried Fish Shops	27
Hairdressers	10
Houses let in Lodgings	3
Interviews	1,147
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	135
Petrol Pump Inspections	15
Public Cleansing - Administration	156
Public Cleansing - Refuse Collection	334
Public Cleansing - Refuse Disposal	151
Public Cleansing - Salvage	216
Public Conveniences	25
Sanitary Accommodation - Defects	36
Schools	15
Shops	153
Stables, Piggeries and Poultry	8
Sunday Trading	7
Tents, Vans and Sheds	7
Theatres and Places of Entertainment	4
Water Courses - Survey	15
Water Supplies	75
West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1931 - Drains Cleansed	40

Clean Air

1971 continued to show the same progress as previous years, with no major setbacks to the programme, except for some shortage of certain types of solid smokeless fuel. A monthly review of fuel merchants' stocks (6 of whom were the main suppliers to the Sowerby Bridge area) showed that no-one was left without some type of smokeless fuel. Due to pressure on the merchants some deliveries were unavoidably late, and in one or two instances where elderly people were without a fire, arrangements were made to loan them an electric fire as soon as the Department was notified of these cases.

Norland No. 9 Smoke Control Area became operative on the 1st October 1971, and although there were a few late grant applications, conversions at the year end were proceeding at a satisfactory rate.

Conversions in Smoke Control Area No. 8 (Beachwood/Sowerby New Road) are proceeding at a moderate rate, the operative date for this area being 1st July 1973, by which time most of the Council's dwellings will have been converted. The operative date on this area was deferred for an additional two years, in view of the complexity of smoke control conversions being combined with additional work

under improvement schedules. These conversions are proceeding at a steady rate, and it is hoped that they will be almost completed by the operative date.

Complaints about installations have been very few, and contractors have been very helpful in rectifying any faults brought to their notice.

Industrial firms have once again been most co-operative in observing Clean Air regulations, and any infringement has been caused by breakdown of apparatus, of which the Department has been notified. Cautions have been issued in a few instances to occupiers of domestic premises observed to be burning coal. Efforts have been made by the Department to prohibit the sale of raw bituminous coal by retail shops in smoke control areas, but unfortunately there is no legislation to cover this loophole. It must be assumed, therefore, that coal is for the most part being supplied to properties having a short life and being excluded from the area.

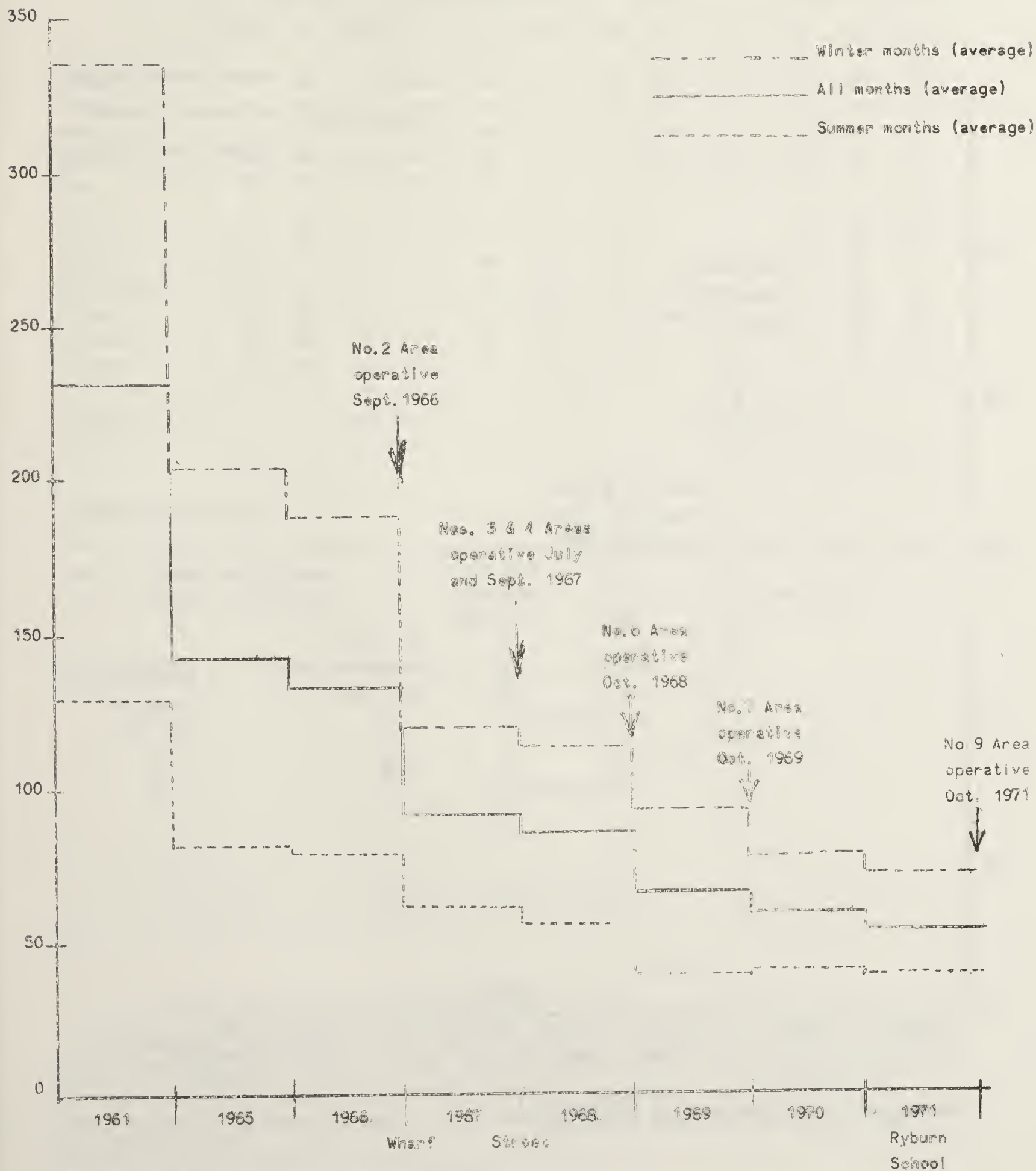
Atmospheric pollution readings taken daily are once again showing a drop in sulphur dioxide being discharged into the atmosphere, and in soot particles being deposited in the area.

Many complimentary remarks about the effects of Clean Air regulations are still being received by the Department, and stone cleaning which has been carried out in many areas will not now be subject to the same corrosive elements as has been evident in the past.

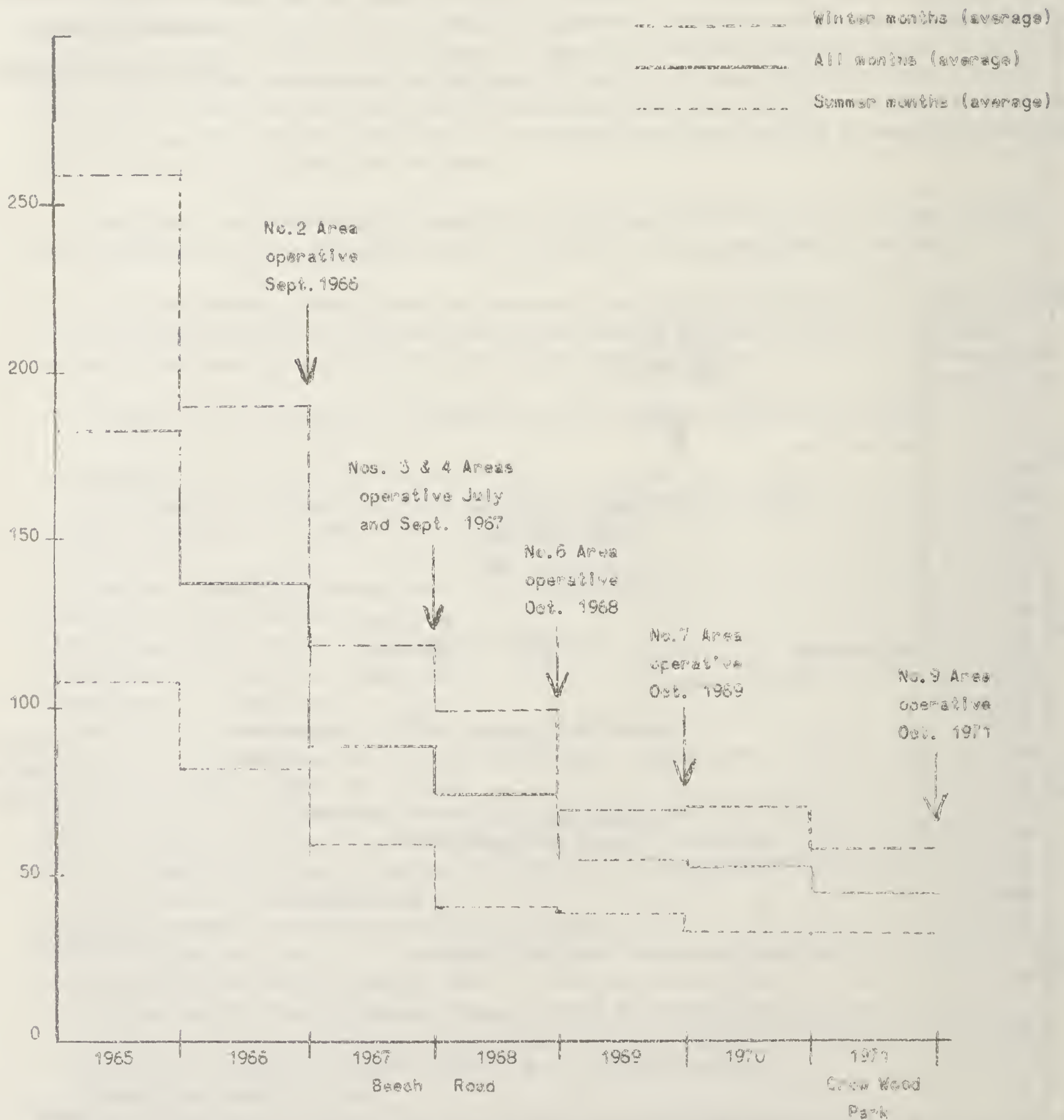
Details of work carried out in connection with the Clean Air Acts are as follows:-

Intermediate visits re applications (No. 9 Area)	.. .. .	48
Final inspections for payment of grant (No. 9 Area - Norland)	.. .. .	98
Routine inspection, all areas, Industrial Chimneys (weekly)	.. .. .	48
Re-visits .. .. .	.. .. .	60
Inspection of Commercial Premises with living accommodation	.. .. .	9
Re-visits re installations .. .. .	.. .. .	42
Smoke observations, Areas 1 to 9 - Domestic premises	.. .. .	68
Smoke Recording Stations .. .. .	.. .. .	732
Interviews .. .. .	.. .. .	610
Investigations re faulty appliances and condensation complaints	.. .. .	17
Complaints re unauthorised burning of industrial waste - scrap yards, factories, etc.		36
Preliminary survey visits - No. 10 Area .. .. .	.. .. .	50
Monthly visits to Coal Merchants to ascertain local supply position for solid smokeless fuel, etc., i.e. 6 merchants supplying Sowerby Bridge area	.. .. .	18
Visits to domestic premises re shortage of fuels, and loan of electric fire, etc.	.. .. .	8
Delivering survey notices (No. 10 Area) .. .. .	.. .. .	636
Maintenance of Atmospheric Pollution pumps - visits .. .. .	.. .. .	10
Re-siting atmospheric pollution instruments from Wharf Street and Beech Road to Crow Wood Park and Ryburn Secondary School - visits and installations	.. .. .	8
Preliminary survey of Council Houses, Newlands estate (representative selection) re existing appliances and suggested replacements of obsolete appliances	.. .. .	52
Dismantling pump apparatus at Ryburn School, prior to installation at Luddenden Foot Council Offices .. .. .	.. .. .	2
Visits to industrial premises re emission of dark smoke from chimneys	.. .. .	8
Reports to contractors re substandard installations .. .. .	.. .. .	11

Atmospheric Smoke measured and recorded at Wharf Street, Sowerby Bridge, 1961 and 1965-70
compared with that measured and recorded at Ryburn School, Sowerby, 1971



Atmospheric Smoke measured and recorded at Beech Road, Sowerby Bridge, 1965-70
compared with that measured and recorded at Crow Wood Park, 1971



	Crow Wood Park						Rushy School					
	Smoke			Sulphur Dioxide			Smoke			Sulphur Dioxide		
	MA	HDF	LOF	MA	HDF	LOF	MA	HDF	LOF	MA	HDF	LOF
* January	125	550	8	232	612	40	129	504	18	145	354	39
February	77	315	14	88	194	29	92	230	35	86	249	25
March	49	125	11	96	148	47	68	196	29	58	273	19
April	45	122	21	142	283	65	61	145	24	152	256	55
May	38	97	14	149	317	92	46	90	14	147	273	73
June	22	61	10	97	182	50	32	115	19	80	152	35
July	22	52	5	93	201	40	17	37	2	69	199	27
August	23	71	10	95	165	38	24	65	14	79	226	18
September	43	107	15	118	238	36	45	99	14	104	201	39
October	52	195	13	97	171	26	62	126	15	114	220	37
November	41	132	5	79	149	52	58	161	8	96	316	26
December	52	292	10	72	151	41	82	301	11	130	552	45
* Readings at:	Beech Road						Wharf Street					

Explanation of Table:-

- MA - Monthly average, which is the mean of the daily figures for the month under review.
- HDF - Highest daily figure.
- LOF - Lowest daily figure.

* Stations moved to Crow Wood Park and Rushy School in February.

HOUSING

The Department is responsible, under the Housing Acts, for the routine inspection and survey of houses throughout the district; for the improvement and repair of houses where practicable; and for the representation for clearance and closure of houses which are so unfit as to be beyond practicable improvement or repair. The following table summarises the general housing statistics for 1971:-

1.	Approximate number of dwellinghouses in the district	6,464
2.	Number of houses included in above	
	(a) Back-to-back	1,001
	(b) Single back	85
3.	Houses in Clearance Areas and Unfit Houses elsewhere	
	(1) Number of houses included in Representations made during the year	
	(a) in Clearance Areas	89
	(b) Individual Unfit Houses	8
	(2) Clearance Areas	
	(a) Houses demolished	78
	(b) Number of Persons displaced	154
	(c) Number of Families displaced	58
	(3) Unfit Houses not in Clearance Areas	
	(a) Houses demolished	-
	(b) Number of Persons displaced	-
	(c) Number of Families displaced	-
	(4) Unfit Houses closed under Section 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1), Housing Act, 1957, and Section 26, Housing Act, 1961	
	(a) Number	8
	(b) Number of Persons displaced	12
	(c) Number of Families displaced	6
	(5) Unfit Houses made fit and Houses in which defects were remedied	
	After informal action by Local Authority	
	By Owner	90
	After formal notice under Public Health Acts	
	By Owner	1
	By Local Authority	-
	After formal notice under Sections 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957	
	By Owner	-
	By Local Authority	-
4.	Number of Families re-housed during the year into Council Houses	
	(a) Clearance Areas, etc.	30
	(b) Overcrowding	2

5. Rent Act, 1957

(a) Number of Certificates of Disrepair granted	-
(b) Number of Undertakings to execute repairs given by owners to the Local Authority	-
(c) Number of Certificates of Disrepair cancelled	-

6. New Dwellings

Number of dwellings completed during the year

By the Local Authority	-
By Private Enterprise	16

7. Grants for conversion or improvement of housing accommodation

(a) Conversions

(1) Applications received (number of dwellings)	2
(2) Applications approved (number of dwellings)	3
(3) Number of dwellings completed	5

(b) Improvements

(1) Applications received (number of dwellings)	102
(2) Applications approved (number of dwellings)	101
(3) Number of dwellings completed	76

In Section (b), (1) can be divided into 30 Improvement Grants and 72 Standard Grants, 30 of the former being approved, and 71 of the latter. The number of dwellings completed during the year included certain houses where application had been made in previous years.

8. Details of advances for the purpose of acquiring or constructing houses

The Council operate the Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, and during the financial year 53 advances were made. In addition, 13 improvement loans were made.

Housing Improvement

Now that the worst of the unfit property has been cleared in this district and elsewhere, the emphasis is shifting more and more to area improvement. There are in most old town neighbourhoods where improvement is required on a large scale to halt the deterioration of the area.

Sowerby Bridge has a good record regarding individual improvement grants and standard grants; 76 Individual Improvement Grants and Standard Grants were completed during the year, bringing the total since 1949 to over 1,079. Approximately 22% of the private houses in the district have now been improved with the help of these grants.

As a result of the declaration of a General Improvement Area in Mill Bank, an interim report and pilot scheme was prepared by a Bradford firm of architects and surveyors. The scheme was

considered in depth and public meetings were held in the local school to discuss the implications, etc., and also the proposals for future Council development within the area.

It was unfortunate that the area had been declared a General Improvement Area on an interim report, leaving a number of uncertainties, and not on a detailed report in which the public could participate and pass their comments. In order to remedy this the Council, towards the year end, engaged the services of the architects and surveyors who had been interested in the pilot scheme, to carry out a detailed survey of all the property, prepare plans, specifications and costs, with suggested rents where applicable. This work was well under way at the year end.

As a result of previous surveys and reports on areas capable of improvement, the Members of the Council visited a number of these areas, together with a block of property entered for proposed clearance in 1973, and upon which the owners had made proposals for improvement. Resulting from these visits, the Council requested a detailed report on 2 of these areas for consideration with a view to declaring both areas General Improvement Areas. In addition, the cottage property at St. Peter's Square, Sowerby, was temporarily removed from the proposed clearance programme, in order to give the interested parties an opportunity of submitting detailed plans and specifications for the improvement of the 11 houses concerned. At the year end, these schemes were well in hand.

It is pleasing to note the increased activity in the improvement of the older houses, especially the farmhouse and country cottage.

Clearance of Unfit Houses

With 1,400 unfit houses having now been dealt with in clearance areas, and over 7,000 improvement grants having been completed, there remain approximately 200-300 other unfit houses which appear unsuitable for improvement, falling short of the requirements of the Housing Act, and which will be represented for clearance.

During 1971, 7 clearance areas were declared, consisting of 89 houses, details of which are set out below. 8 areas were confirmed by the Department of the Environment during the year, and confirmation is awaited for 5 outstanding areas. 78 houses in confirmed clearance areas were demolished during the year.

Details of clearance procedure during 1971 are set out below:-

Luddenden Foot Ward (No. 1) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1971 (Turner Buildings)	9 houses
East Ward (No. 2) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1971 (Gratrix Lane)	4 houses
Midgley Ward (No. 3) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1971 (Lydgate)	7 houses
Norland Ward (No. 4) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1971 (28,59-60 Triangle) ..	4 houses
Norland Ward (No. 5) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1971 (Triangle and Oak Hill) ..	17 houses
East Ward (No. 6) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1971 (Deernlays Yard)	8 houses
East Ward (No. 7) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1971 (Willow Street)	40 houses

No formal objections to the Council's clearance orders were received, although it must be pointed out that 4 of the above Orders were not submitted to the Department of the Environment, due to a difference of opinion between the Department of the Environment and the Council on classification in 2 other Orders submitted. Discussions were still continuing at the year end in respect of this matter.

A Public Inquiry was held during the year because of an objection in respect of one house in Central Ward (No. 2) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1970 (Stubbins, Beech Road), submitted last year. However, the objector did not appear at the Inquiry, and the Order was confirmed without modification. The considerable cost of such an Inquiry has to be borne by the Council, even when an objector does not appear, thus making the Inquiry an unnecessary formality.

Generally speaking, there is now very little opposition to Clearance Area action when compared with 10 years ago, when the majority of Clearance Orders were contested. No doubt this is due partly to increasing dissatisfaction with old and obsolete housing. Possibly also the increased rates of compensation payable are another factor.

Closure of Unfit Houses

8 houses were closed after action under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957. It was not practicable to demolish these houses at the time.

Future Clearance Programme

The 5-year proposed clearance programme was planned in 1968 for 1969-73, up to the proposed amalgamation. During the period it was proposed to represent an average of 100 houses per year, but this may be revised from time to time in the light of Government legislation, and occasionally when the deterioration observed in properties is either checked or alternatively reversed. It sometimes happens that there is a sudden marked deterioration in a block of property not previously included in clearance, which means that this must be added to the programme. So far in the present programme this has not happened: it has been quite the reverse. A number of tenanted properties have suddenly become owner-occupied, and very serious interest has been shown in improvement. It is therefore quite probable that the number in the programme will be somewhat reduced. The properties shown in 1972 and 1973 total 94 and 93 respectively, but the 1972 programme will be drastically reduced by the proposals which have now been submitted by the new owners.

Although for the most part the Type 1 back-to-back and back-to-earth substandard properties will have been eliminated by 1974, many of the borderline properties still remain, and their future will be determined between 1974 and 1980 by the serious proposals of the owners concerned.

Overcrowding

Although occasional cases arise, these are promptly dealt with informally, and overcrowding is not now the problem it was in the immediate post-war years.

Advances for House Purchase

Advances are made by the Council under the Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, for the purchase of houses for owner-occupation. These are usually the older type of terrace houses which would not attract a Building Society mortgage. During 1971, 53 advances (totalling £54,475) were made for this purpose, together with 13 improvement loans (totalling £5,952).

Re-Building

16 houses were completed in the district during 1971, all of which were built by private enterprise. The following statistics regarding new houses erected, houses cleared, and population trends since 1950, are of interest.

Table of Houses erected in the Urban District over the past 22 years:

Year	Houses Erected		Total	Houses Condemned	Population
	By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise			
1950	22	-	22	-	19,040
1951	16	2	18	-	18,770 (census)
1952	12	-	12	-	18,660
1953	40	-	40	-	18,530
1954	58	-	58	-	18,500
1955	52	-	52	-	18,430
1956	28	-	28	-	18,260
1957	17	-	17	-	18,170
1958	-	-	-	47	18,140
1959	31	2	33	41	17,940
1960	3	12	15	53	17,870
1961	24	18	42	166	17,350 (census)
1962	12	13	25	55	17,330
1963	97	-	97	122	17,320
1964	86	4	90	257	17,150
1965	203	24	227	173	16,930
1966	135	4	139	112	16,690
1967	186	29	215	22	16,600
1968	32	1	33	123	16,700
1969	5	3	8	101	16,610
1970	-	19	19	71	16,430
1971	-	16	16	89	16,260 (census)
	1,059	147	1,206	1,432	

General Housing Inspection

	Visits							
Public Health Acts, 1936-61 (Housing)	27
Re-visits	15
Housing Act, 1957	246
Re-visits	109
Miscellaneous Housing	260
Re-visits	93
Housing Survey for Clearance, etc., and Improvement	504
Inspection of Individual Unfit Houses	8
Clearance Area sites	22

General Housing Inspection (continued)

	Visits
Rent Act, 1957, and Qualification Certificate applications	14
Improvement Grant visits	72
Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts	53
Overcrowding	5

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Meat Inspection

The one private slaughterhouse in the district was voluntarily closed by the owner early in 1970, and no slaughtering has taken place there since that time.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

Licences have been issued to 3 slaughtermen, under the above Act.

Slaughter of Poultry

There is no registered poultry processing establishment in the district, although spasmodic slaughtering of poultry undoubtedly occurs at Christmas time. This is an offence, of course, unless the appropriate Regulations as regards hygienic practices and premises, etc. are complied with.

During the year, however, poultry slaughter on quite a considerable scale came to light. Steps were taken to close the premises immediately, and although the Council took a very serious view of the contravention, proceedings were not taken in this instance.

Unsound Food - Surrendered or Condemned

As in previous years, a considerable amount of unsound food has been examined and condemned during the year, from the shops and food warehouse in the district.

The majority of food is set aside and surrendered by the food handlers, which speaks well for their training in food hygiene, although all stocks are examined from time to time, shelf life and stock rotation of food being carefully noted.

The following is a list of tinned and packaged foods condemned as unfit for human consumption during 1971:-

									Tons	Cwt.	Qtrs.	Lbs.	Oz.
Meat	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		15	1	6	15
Vegetables	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		9	3	11	12
Fruit	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		3	1	15	10
Sugar	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		5	2	1	7
Milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			1	21	8
Rice	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		1	2	18	6
Fish	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..				20	15
Eggs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..				10	5
Mustard	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..				23	6
Potatoes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..				2	15
Sauces	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..				14	15
Spaghetti	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			2	14	2
Fruit Juices	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..				15	4
Suet	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..				5	4
Macaroni	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..				18	15
Cream	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..				7	..
Peanuts	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			3	13	..
Frozen Foods	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..				25	3
Totals									1	16	3	23	-

Food Inspection - General

There were only 2 complaints regarding unsound food during the year. In neither case was the complaint found to be justified, and in one case particularly much investigation was involved, which finally disproved a most reckless allegation.

The food premises are visited regularly, and the standard of hygiene is generally very good, as is also the hygiene consciousness of the food handling personnel.

The following is a list of all food shops in the district, and details of visits made during the year:-

	No. of Premises	No. of Visits
Bakehouses	2	6
Butchers' Shops	24	51
Butchers' Stalls (Market)	5	72
Canteens	23	13
Confectioners and Sweet Shops	25	29
Food Factories	6	10
Fried Fish Shops	18	27
Fish Merchant (Market Stall)	1	56
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	16	60
Grocers - General	51	79
Ice Cream - Retailers and Vans	58	35
Market Stalls - Miscellaneous Foods	19	101
Mobile Traders	44	33
Public Houses and Clubs	41	14
Restaurants and Snack Bars, etc.	9	28
Slaughterhouse	-	2
Wholesale Food Premises	2	37
Miscellaneous Food Visits	-	58

Market

The Council-owned open market continues to be very popular, and opens on Tuesdays and Fridays. There is a wide variety of stalls selling all types of general goods, in addition to a section devoted to Food Stalls. These comply with the Market Stalls and Delivery Vehicles Regulations, 1966, in all respects, and are permanent in structure.

The Authority were one of the first to provide permanent food stalls with a stainless steel sink and hot and cold water supply, and have always endeavoured to maintain a high standard.

The market is inspected regularly, and 175 visits were made for this purpose. Food hygiene standards continue to be good.

Milk Sampling

Raw milk (i.e. farm bottled milk) is sampled regularly as a routine, and checked for evidence of Brucellosis organisms, and the cleanliness of the milk (methylene blue test). These tests are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory in Bradford.

Of the 78 raw milk samples taken during the year, 2 failed the methylene blue test, and the necessary steps were taken to improve handling methods, etc. at the dairy. 8 of the samples

proved to be positive for Brucellosis on culture, and as a result 224 individual cow samples were taken from local herds. This revealed 16 affected cows, which were removed from the herds. In 4 cases where the milk originated outside the Urban District, the Health authorities concerned were informed and carried out this follow-up procedure.

During 1970, Section 106 (4) of the Agriculture Act, 1970, was enacted, which makes it an offence to sell otherwise than for slaughter an animal which is known to be a Brucellosis reactor, and fines of over £400 are applicable. It is hoped that this section will minimise the traffic in affected cows from one district to another, which results in spreading the infection to uncontaminated herds in many cases.

Certain local dairymen are now applying to have their herds designated as Brucellosis Accredited herds, and in this way an increasing pool of Brucellosis-free cattle should be built up in the next few years.

In addition to the samples of raw milk, 1 sample of sterilised milk and 1 sample of homogenised milk were taken, and these were found to be satisfactory as regards efficiency of heat treatment.

Milk dealers generally are most co-operative with the Inspectors, and no prosecution under the Milk and Dairies legislation was necessary during 1971. However, in one instance it was necessary for the Medical Officer of Health to serve a notice on one local producer, requiring that the milk should not be sold unless heat treated. Fortunately, this matter was immediately resolved, and a cancellation notice served shortly afterwards.

Ice Cream

There are no manufacturers of ice cream within the Urban District, and the 40 registered shops sell only pre-wrapped ice cream. In addition, 18 vans are registered under the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951. The premises and vans are inspected from time to time, and a satisfactory standard of cleanliness generally is maintained.

Food Hawkers

At the year end, 44 food hawkers were registered under the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951, although probably not all are still hawking food in this district. Details of these registrations are as follows:-

- 8 dealing in Bread and Confectionery
- 13 dealing in Greengrocery, including Fish
- 18 dealing in Ice Cream
- 2 dealing in General Foodstuffs
- 3 dealing in Meat and Meat Products

Generally speaking, the food hawkers' vehicles comply with the appropriate requirements of the Food Hygiene (Market Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966, and those found not to, are soon brought up to standard after an initial approach.

PUBLIC CLEANSING SERVICES

Refuse Collection

The Department is responsible for the administration of the cleansing services in the district, with the exception of street cleansing. This includes the collection and disposal of refuse, together with the collection of industrial, trade, market refuse, pails, etc., which continues to operate satisfactorily. Waste paper and other salvageable materials are also collected and, under the Civic Amenities Act a further burden has fallen upon the Department in the removal of bulky material from houses and waste lands, and also the removal of abandoned vehicles.

Refuse for the most part continues to be moved on a 7-day cycle, and this is only extended following holidays, periods of illness, or disruption of the transport services.

The turnover of labour in this field has been similar to the previous year. This movement of labour is inevitable and is expected, but this tends to disrupt the smooth working of the system. Maximum efficiency can only be obtained with a settled and regular team.

The basic wage has been slightly increased, but this has been mainly in respect of the cost of living. The wage of the driver is a little over £20, and the labourer is below this figure.

The work of the team is arduous and at times objectionable, and although being routine it has, for the most part, to be completed weekly in all weathers and in all conditions.

At times, due to circumstances entirely beyond the control of the Department, or maybe to some human error however unintentional, the collection may get behind schedule. Many of the ratepayers are very reasonable in their attitude, and appreciate the difficulties which the Department has to face; whilst there are others who consider that the Department should have labour and vehicles unlimited to take over as and when necessary.

The Department endeavours to work as efficiently and economically as any in the West Riding, but complaints are made. This may be due to the efficiency of the Department, as many residents say "I could almost set my watch to the day and time of collection." I think this generally sums up the position in the Department.

I am still of the opinion that the basic rate is too low, and I am firmly convinced that the bin bonus, which increases the take-home pay by between 15% and 30%, is responsible to a very large extent for the slowing down of the movement of labour in that field.

The paper sack system of refuse collection has been further extended, and for the most part continues to work satisfactorily, although complaints have been made due to interference by animals; these with very few exceptions are cats and dogs. When the scheme was introduced, wall mounted and free standing head units were used. These are slowly being phased out, and any new introductions are with the plastic bin and liner. These, we find, give much greater satisfaction, and also increase productivity due to reduced weight and travelling time. The sack system now covers approximately 15% of the entire district.

The metal bins, mostly of 2½ cu.ft. capacity, are being replaced with the 3½ cu.ft. plastic bin and in a few cases (large families) the 4 cu.ft. bin is being introduced. Here again, we find this an improvement, but it is essential that no hot ash be placed in the bin. With the introduction of smoke control and the increasing use of the gas fire, this problem with hot ash is almost non-existent. This, however, raises a further problem. The refuse contained tends to get lighter and bulkier, and in this respect the larger bin is a great advantage. If, however, this trend continues, both larger refuse sacks and bins will have to receive consideration.

With the progress of slum clearance continuing, the number of communal ashbin places is rapidly disappearing, and it is pleasing to see the end of this type of dirty and very objectionable accommodation.

The bulk containers have increased and are used mostly in connection with high and 5-storey flats, and in industry. There are approximately 20 now in use, and they are emptied twice per week. The conditions vary in the flats, but there is no doubt that in the high flats where a warden is directly responsible for the cleanliness of the accommodation, the complaints of chute blockages are almost non-existent, and the conditions in all respects are vastly superior.

Details of refuse collection throughout the year are set out in the following table:-

Vehicle					Ashbins	Pails	Loads	Tons	Cuts.
Dennis No. 15	..	..	..	..	150,055	-	332	1,590	-
S. & D. No. 16	..	..	..	..	25,908	-	916	959	-
Dennis No. 17	..	..	..	..	134,962	-	534	1,598	-
Bedford	..	..	..	..	-	-	100	36	10
Karrier No. 19	..	..	..	..	44,159	108	640	776	-
S. & D. No. 20	..	..	..	..	4,600	-	54	102	-
Totals ..					359,694	108	2,776	5,041	10

Transport

The Department continues to operate five vehicles on refuse collection, four of which are in regular use, the fifth being used as a spare, and brought in as and when required.

The S. & D. (1962) Fore and Aft was taken out of service and replaced by a similar vehicle of slightly reduced capacity. The vehicle was purchased with a view to operating in the outer districts. It was therefore necessary to have a vehicle of reasonable capacity (20 cu.yds.), and yet in order to negotiate the narrow and unmade roads, and also the farm tracks in these outer areas, it had not to exceed a certain width. It was extremely difficult to find such a vehicle. Manufacturers appear to be making vehicles larger and more complicated from year to year.

One appreciates the increasing quantity of refuse and the very bulky nature of the same, but many of our larger housing estates and shopping precincts, narrow access roads to the rear of

these properties are still the order of the day; and the larger vehicles, apart from being very costly to purchase and maintain, are difficult to manoeuvre in these restricted areas. It is to be regretted that there is not a wider choice of the smaller and more compact refuse vehicles, which is still necessary both in our towns to reduce congestion, and in the rural areas to negotiate the narrow roads, etc., and is still a very useful and essential part of modern cleansing services.

The J.C.B., purchased in 1963 for use in tip control, is now coming to the end of its useful life. The tractor, which was depreciated over 5 years, was completely overhauled in 1968, and has done excellent service at comparatively low cost, apart from the costs involved in punctures and tyre replacements which, on account of the nature of the work, have been rather high. Whilst the tractor was only expected to carry out tip control, it was found necessary to provide new roads into the tip area and move substantial quantities of subsoil. Although the tractor was not designed for this type of heavy work, it was brought into use and completed the work in a most efficient manner.

It is appreciated that in view of the work now to be undertaken and completed, both in the reclamation of land by the removal of substantial quantities of subsoil, and the control of both domestic and industrial refuse, a much heavier machine will have to be considered, but it is hoped that such a machine will be as efficient, effective and economical in its performance as the J.C.B. has been. Arrangements are in hand for the demonstration of various type of tractors, and at the year end 4 had already been demonstrated.

The Bedford vehicle, which has proved to be such a useful asset to the Department, mainly in connection with the collection of bulky articles under the Civic Amenities legislation, has now been taken off the road and is used solely for conveying covering material and removal of subsoil within the area of the tip. There is a distinct possibility that the vehicle will require replacement before very long.

The Minister has now decided to include all municipal vehicles under the Plating and Testing regulations, and the suggested date for the implementation is March 1972. Previously, all refuse collecting vehicles were exempted from these regulations, and there is no doubt that a considerable amount of work will have to be carried out on the Council's fleet, and the expense involved could be quite high.

Although it is appreciated that refuse vehicles must be completely roadworthy, it hardly appears reasonable to expect the same conditions to apply to a refuse vehicle travelling 50 or 60 miles per week, as to a haulage vehicle travelling daily on motorways at upwards of 50 miles per hour. However, at the end of the year arrangements were being made for the entire fleet to be examined, in order that a realistic estimate for the necessary cost may be obtained.

The vehicles which are now operated by the Department, together with the duties on which they are employed, are set out in the following table:-

No.	Make	Year of Purchase	Capacity	Service
15	Dennis Paxit (continuous loader)	1964	25 cu.yds.	Refuse Collection.
16	S. & D. Rear F. & A. Loader (with power press)	1965	11 cu.yds.	Refuse Collection, Salvage, Trade Refuse.
17	Dennis Paxit (continuous loader)	1969	25 cu.yds.	Refuse Collection.
18	Bedford	1969		Tip work.
19	Karrier Bantam (dual tip)	1970	11 cu.yds.	Refuse Collection, Salvage (spare)
20	S. & D. Rear F. & A. Loader (with power press)	1972	20 cu.yds.	Refuse Collection.
	J.C.B. Shovel	1963	Shovel	Refuse Disposal.

Accidents

During the year the vehicles have been involved in 7 accidents, as follows:-

Dennis	No. 15	..	..	..	2
S. & D.	No. 16	..	..	..	2
Dennis	No. 17	..	..	..	2
S. & D.	No. 20	..	..	..	1

There has been a slight increase in the number of accidents, and generally these have been unavoidable, due to the vehicles negotiating narrow unmade roads, and so damaging dry stone walls, gate posts, etc. It is rather surprising that more accidents are not caused by reason of the fact of the thoughtless, indiscriminate parking on narrow roads, forcing Council vehicles on to pavements, contributing to accidents and damage to footpaths, etc. I feel that the drivers are to be congratulated in keeping their accidents down to such a low figure.

Municipal Ashbin Scheme

This scheme has, over the years, been invaluable to the Authority. It was commenced in 1949 as a bin hire scheme, and later adopted as a Municipal Ashbin Scheme.

The scheme has allowed the Local Authority to standardise on its containers, and also to experiment with different types of containers, the introduction of paper sack schemes of different types, to the benefit of the Authority. The scheme has obviated the necessity for the service

of notice for replacement bins, and this is carried out as a routine matter.

During the year 355 bins have been replaced, and 150 sack liners introduced.

Trade Refuse

The scale of charges for the collection of trade refuse has remained unchanged. One bin of refuse is still collected free of charge, with a charge of 5p per bin for each additional bin or part thereof. A few large bulk containers (1½ cu.yds.) have been introduced at industrial premises and large restaurants. These are let out on a rental basis, the charge for emptying each container being 50p per week.

The trade refuse for the most part is collected once per week, with the exception of the more objectionable refuse from the market, fish shops, etc., and this is collected twice per week.

With the continual emphasis and extension of smoke control areas the industrialists, who have made every effort to comply with the Orders, are finding increasing difficulties in disposing of industrial waste by burning, and consequently the Local Authority is being called upon to remove ever increasing quantities of this type of refuse.

The total amount of trade and industrial refuse removed during the year has realised approximately £770.

Refuse Disposal

The method of refuse disposal is entirely by controlled tipping at Milner Road. Due to the shortage of covering material, the tip is not covered daily although efforts are made to blind the sides.

The tipping area is filling at a very considerable rate, firstly due to the continued presence of bulky domestic refuse, and secondly by contractors and industrialists. The present site will last no longer than a further two years.

An area approaching 4 acres has now been properly fenced, levelled and seeded, and when finally completed should prove a very valuable addition to the playing areas (e.g. football pitches) so vitally needed in this area.

A new road has been prepared and put into use on the upper boundary of the tip. In order that the lower area may be excavated with the consequent extension of both the tip and the playing area. It is hoped that the subsoil, although of a very heavy nature, will be useful in blinding the sides and end of the tip, and also for forming fire banks. Although this will add only a little over an acre to this area, this added land will be invaluable in providing an additional playing area to use as a football pitch. The amount of subsoil to be removed for this purpose is approximately 8,000 cu.yds., and will be excavated from 0 to 10 ft. deep. This generally will form Phase 2 of the scheme, following on Phase 1, being a scheme recently outlined which included the re-seeding of the reclaimed land for recreational purposes.

The application for increased tipping space from waste disposal contractors is increasing very considerably, and one part of the tip is entirely devoted to industrial tipping. The waste disposal contractors concerned have permission only to tip industrial waste accumulated within the district, but with the amounts now being deposited there is a distinct possibility that this service is being extended. When the area allocated for this purpose is completed, the whole question will have to be reviewed. The charges for tipping industrial refuse have been substantially increased.

Nuisance from the tip arising from fire and rodent infestation has been very small, and completely under control.

A portion of the tip is open at all times for the general public to use, especially during evenings and week-ends. This facility is used to a very great extent, not only by Sowerby Bridge ratepayers, but also by those of neighbouring Authorities. It is most unfortunate, with these facilities available, that tipping at Daisy Bank where the tip has been closed for a number of years, continues to the detriment of this rather pleasant area.

In my last report reference was made to the Calderdale Authorities getting together to discuss the possibilities of an incinerator to accommodate the entire output of refuse of the Authorities from Brighouse to Todmorden, including Halifax. Meetings have continued, and much useful work has been completed, resulting in the consultants, Messrs Howard Humphreys & Sons, being engaged to carry out a feasibility study of the area, and report to the Joint Committee. The feasibility study was completed by September 1971, and submitted to the Committee for consideration. At the end of the year the report was being studied after its acceptance in principle, and it was hoped to embark upon the second part of the scheme in 1972. It is of the utmost importance that no time should be lost in completing such a project, mainly by reason of the fact of the acute shortage of suitable tipping space which is now faced by a number of the Calderdale Authorities.

Salvage

The salvage returns, despite the restrictions in the disposal of waste paper, showed a considerable increase (61 tons) over the previous year, and the income was also considerably increased (£782). This increase was due for the most part firstly, to the ready market for kraft paper, and secondly to a suitable alternative outlet which was obtained during the restriction by Thames Board Mills.

The return is quite satisfactory, but there is no doubt that still more waste paper is available. This can be readily seen when examining the tipped refuse, which leaves no doubt in one's mind that with a little more care on the part of the collector, and co-operation by the householders, greater quantities of this valuable commodity could be made available.

However, with the ever increasing costs of labour and transport, waste paper is not a very profitable proposition. It does reduce the fire hazard in the tip; it also leaves valuable tip space for other refuse; and the effort therefore is worthwhile.

Perhaps another contributory factor affecting waste paper collection is the bin bonus scheme, which gives a greater return to the man, and consequently greater effort is made to complete the rounds as early as possible, thus ensuring a higher bonus.

Details of the salvage recovered in 1971 are set out in the following table:-

Materials Salvaged	Tonnes	£
Mixed Paper	79.82	820.16
Newspapers	64.16	788.86
Fibreboard	45.77	542.04
Kraft Sacks	70.03	874.89
Totals ..	259.78	3,025.95

Civic Amenities Act, 1967

The sections of this Act administered by the Health Department are those dealing with the indiscriminate dumping of refuse in unauthorised places, and the removal of abandoned motor vehicles.

The Council tip at Meareclough is open at all times for the deposit of bulky refuse, or refuse in excess of that normally collected weekly. Any householder taking such refuse to the tip does so free of charge, and in addition any bulky refuse is removed by special collection on contacting the Department. This service is also free of charge in the majority of cases.

Despite these services and facilities, which are widely used and appreciated, and the publicity given to them, there are still some people who persist in dumping refuse on any piece of public or private land. Such places used for this purpose are often in inaccessible positions along stretches of woodland or moorland, which are continually spoiled by such illicit dumping. This is despite the fact that there are extremely heavy penalties for this offence. During the year, 22 such dumps and accumulations were cleared.

As a result of formal and informal procedure under the Act, 16 abandoned vehicles have been removed from open spaces, either by the person responsible or a local scrap merchant. The Council has an agreement with this merchant, and the removal is carried out promptly, at no charge to the Local Authority.

By immediate action in this manner, we have managed to overcome the problem of dumped cars in this area, but the increase in the number of "non-runners", usually neither taxed nor insured which cannot strictly be classed as abandoned, may cause some concern and problems in the future.

GENERAL ITEMS

Petroleum Acts and Orders

Routine inspection of petrol stations and petroleum installations was made prior to the issuing of the licences. This work has also been carried out in conjunction with the Fire Prevention Officer of the West Riding County Council.

During the year, 15 inspections have been carried out, and the following licences have been issued:-

Storage of Petroleum	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
Storage of Cellulose Paint and Petroleum Mixtures	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5

Rodent Control

The work of rodent control is divided between a part-time operative, who deals with both business and commercial premises, and the cleansing foreman, who is responsible for the remainder. In the absence of one or the other, then this work is carried out by the Inspectors.

During the year 214 dwellinghouses, 69 business premises, 9 Local Authority properties and 5 agricultural properties have been inspected and treated as necessary. The infestations were of a minor nature for the most part.

The number of treatments carried out at the various premises during the year are set out as follows:-

Local Authority properties	..	..	..	..	..	..	30
Private dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	..	535
Business premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	345
Agricultural properties	..	..	..	..	..	..	15

Following upon the work carried out in the eradication of the feral (wild) pigeons during 1970, further baiting has taken place in 3 main areas. These are in the more heavily populated residential districts where these birds again established themselves due to the continual feeding by the residents. This feeding pattern had to be broken, and a new one established for the purpose of the eradication of these birds.

In conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and the R.S.P.C.A. Inspectorate, the treatments were carried out efficiently and smoothly, with only a small minority of the public at large being aware of the action being taken. This problem will no doubt remain with us as the residents continue to attract the birds by feeding. There is no doubt that this problem would solve itself immediately the feeding stopped, as this has been borne out so many times in groups of property which have had this pigeon problem; but due to the substandard nature of the property it has been closed, and immediately it has been vacated the nuisance from pigeons has ceased.

Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964

Under the above Regulations, the following scrap metal dealers are on the register:-

- (1) Messrs Bradley & Holmes, 16 Arden Road, Halifax,
trading from (a) Causeway Holme Works, Sowerby Bridge.
(b) The Goods Sidings, Sowerby Bridge Station.
- (2) Mr. J. Smith, Thorpe Mills, Triangle,
trading from Thorpe Mills.

